

ABSTRACT

An expandable cage used in conjunction with an embolic filtering device has a strut configuration including a proximal strut assembly coupled to a distal strut assembly. A filter can be attached to the distal strut assembly which has an inlet opening. The proximal strut assembly is "offset" from the distal strut assembly in that these proximal struts extend substantially along the vessel wall of the patient, rather than being "centered" in the body vessel when the cage is expanded in a body vessel. As a result, there is little cage structure directly in front of the opening of the filter, resulting in a virtually unobstructed opening for the filter.

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